

## **MBA Minutes, Zoom Meeting 12-1-21**

### **In attendance:**

- Miriam Haugen, Haugen's Galleri
- Marilyn Morton, Ind. City Council, several other board memberships
- Jeff Rose, Main Street Ice Cream
- Tori Stutzman, Sparklet Design Studios
- Suzanne Dufner, Community/Econ. Director City of Monmouth
- Kevin Raschko, Treasurer, and Columbia Bank
- Phyllis Bolman, City Recorder, city of Monmouth
- Bill Foster, Kampfer Enterprises, Guardian Management
- Jeff Glodt, owner, Grain Station
- Sabra Jewell, Western Oregon University, Corporate Giving
- James Martin, Dancing Muse Costume Shop
- Nicki Marazzani, Monmouth Independence Chamber of Commerce
- Senator Deb Patterson, State Senator

### **Introductions were made**

#### **Presentation from Senator Deb Patterson.**

- Enjoyed opportunity to visit many businesses in the area.
- Monmouth/Independence are very proactive in welcoming small businesses.
- Good planning processes in both cities.
- Cities do a fabulous job; she's met businesses who deliberately moved here because of business-welcoming atmosphere of both of the cities.
- Special legislative session coming up. Another short session will be in February.
- She is aware of an extreme shortage of labor right now.
- Many baby-boomers have retired; per State of Oregon about 3% of those on unemployment earn more than they could being employed.
- Oregon's immigration process needs to be fixed.
- She is very grateful to the business community.
- She's very proud of WOU, looking forward to everything that it will be accomplishing.
- Pharmaceutical review board now in operation.
- Question: Is there going to be a vaccination passport coming? In the federal level perhaps, but not at the state level.

**Approve minutes from last meeting and financial statement.** Suzanne Dufner moved to approve the minutes, Jeff Rose 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously. Financial statement discussed by Kevin Roschko. Ending balance \$12,379.86, increase of \$401.87 for the year. Marilyn Morton moved to approve the financial statement; Bill Foster 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.

## **Election of Officers for 2022**

Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2022:

- President – Miriam Haugen
- Vice President – Tori Stutzman
- Secretary – Emily McNulty
- Treasurer – Kevin Raschko

Call for any other nominations: there were none.

Bill Foster moved to approve a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers, Sabra Jewell 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously, with a foregone conclusion that there would be rotation in office in the coming year.

**Strategic Planning Meeting in January-** January 28, 8-10 am Led by Sheri Stuart with the Oregon Main Street Program. The meeting will be held in person with possibility of hybrid format, place TBA.

**Making Spirits Bright-** Suzanne Dufner detailed what is happening this Friday and Saturday for the event, culminating in tree lighting on campus. 10 businesses have signed up for Passports for Prizes. Many concurrent events. Light decorating competition had great turn-out, 14 businesses and a dozen residential homes. Voting week coming up; prizes being awarded Dec. 15. Information available on MBA website including programs and passports.

## **Committee reports**

- o Website-John Bracken, Emily McNulty, Suzanne Dufner – Making Spirits Bright info posted
- o Social Media- Sabra, Emily – Thanks to Suzanne Dufner who filled in for Emily McNulty on Facebook during Emily's vacation.
- o Membership and Outreach – Suzanne, Emily, Nicki – nothing new to report
- o Events
  - Music in the Park- Bill Foster, Kevin Raschko – groups have already been inquiring about Music in the Park in 2022
  - New Student Feed- Jeff Glodt
  - Halloween-James Martin, Krist Obrist
  - Making Spirits Bright/Small Business Saturday – upcoming event, discussed

## **Announcements**

Chamber of Commerce

- Polk County Women in Business meeting Saturday morning

- Morning Greeters 8:30, Parallel 45, Hosted by TL Celebrations, Toys for Tots. Bring an unwrapped new toy
- No Thirsty Thursday in December, but there may be a happy hour Friday coming up, more details to follow
- It has been a fun 6 months at the Chamber

#### City of Monmouth

- City is a Toys for Tots drop off this Saturday to accept new unwrapped toys and/or cash donations – gift bags for kids to hand out
- Polk County Card is live and available for purchase. Buy a \$50 gift card get \$10 free; a \$100 gift card earns additional \$20. 30 businesses in Monmouth, Independence, Dallas are participating, and more are invited to join.
- New tourism commission employee – interviews today, shared position for Polk County
- Employees no longer in City Hall; 3 went to Senior Center, all else at Monmouth Power and Light. This is in preparation for construction of the new city hall. City Hall has been at current location for 92 years.

#### WOU

- Excited for tree lighting – be sure to wear a mask when on campus, and enjoy the events
- Football team is part of the Lone Star Conference – mostly Texas football teams with enthusiastic fans. Should be more home games than normal, bringing more business to come.

#### **Call for other business**

Santa Experience is underway; good Google promotions help draw patrons from beyond the mid-Willamette valley

**Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM with best wishes for a happy holiday.